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DEC 19 2006

Appln No. 10/779,467
Amdt date December 19, 2006
Reply to Office action of September 22, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the present application, of which claims 4, 6, 8, 9, 13 and 28 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claim 30 is cancelled. Thus, claims 1-29 are now pending in the present application, of which claims 4, 6, 8, 9, 13 and 28 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim 1 is allowed. Applicants have amended claim 1 to remove the word "tubular" which appears before "drive element" in order to make the language of the claim consistent with the first recitation of "drive element."

Claims 2, 3, 5, 10-12, 14, 16-18, 20-24, 26, 27 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) over WO 02/102618A1. Applicants have cancelled independent claim 30. Additionally, Applicants have amended claims 2, 3, 5, 10-12, 14, 16-18, 20-24, 26 and 27 to now depend on claim 1 either directly or through intervening claims. Therefore, Applicants believe that claims 2, 3, 5, 10-12, 14, 16-18, 20-24, 26 and 27 are now allowable.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Selig et al. Claim 7 now depends on claim 1 through intervening claim 5. Therefore, Applicants believe that claim 7 is now allowable.

Claims 15, 19, 25 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Selig et al. in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0067196. Claims 15 and 19 now depend on claim 1 through one or more intervening claims. Additionally, claims 25 and 29 are amended to depend on claim 1. Therefore, Applicants believe that claims 15, 19, 25 and 29 are now allowable.

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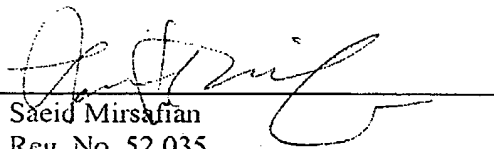
Applicants have also amended claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 10-12, 14, 15, 22, 24, 25 and 29 to remove the word "tubular" in order to make the language of these claims consistent with the language of claim 1, upon which these dependent claims now depend either directly or through intervening claim(s).

Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance to be issued in the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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